

Commandment Keeping

‘If you love Me, keep My commandments’, John 14:7.

Many sermons on this scripture treat this statement as a ‘command’.

That is totally correct, for it IS a ‘command’.

It is here that we have a problem – in fact two problems –

1. A command from God is telling us how He wants us to live,
2. A command from us is telling people what they ‘ought to try to and do’, generally in a condemnatory way, when we are anything but a rule of thumb by which all things are measured.

When God gave the Ten Commandments on Sinai, they were, in fact, ten declarations of the nature of His people who He FORMED in His image.

Many who preach on this scripture declare from the pulpit that we do not keep all these commandments – a true statement – and we therefore need to decide which one to ‘keep’.

WRONG.

Jesus clearly states ‘commandments’ NOT ‘commandment’! We could then claim that we are fulfilling our ‘part’ in the whole community.

This teaching is little better than a religious trap. If we base our ‘faith’ on self-righteous works, and our somewhat pitiful attempts to ‘please God’, all we do is create a sense of theme corporate ‘trying to get by’.

When Jesus said, ‘If you love Me, keep My commandments’, He spoke as the Creator of the universe TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. He spoke it by the FAITH of God.

If we love Him we – by the ‘power’ of His Spirit in us – will keep His commandments, because HE IS THE LAW FULFILLED AND HE LIVES IN US.

If we do not love Him, we CANNOT keep His commandments, no matter how hard we might TRY.

Jesus reduced the Ten Mosaic commandments and 611 Levitical laws down to two commandments: ‘Love God with ALL of your being and love your neighbour as you love yourself!’

If we cannot ‘keep’ the first commandment of Christ – and remember there are only two, then, even by our self-proclaimed virtue, cannot keep

the other, for these two commandments cannot be separated, yet it is upon JUST TWO COMMANDMENTS that all the law hangs.

THE GOOD NEWS IS:

1. There is NOW no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

Man’s religion and teaching of praying longer, fasting longer, studying harder, working harder for the Lord, and attending more

meetings, etc, will deprive you of this.

NOTHING is accomplished by trying harder; it is only by living in His Grace that we are NOT CONDEMNED.

Sin shall have no dominion over you.

When we love Him, He makes this a reality to us. The power of sin is broken forever.

2. Your sins are forgiven.

When Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments," He spoke that reality that spanned all time, from the beginning of time to the end of time.

No more do you have to carry SHAME for what you did in the past and the stumbling you now encounter. Shame is a self-imposed PRISON. He has opened the prison doors, but there are many jailers, including ourselves, who have not TOLD us we are free from our shame in Him. To do so would threaten many jailers job security. When we love Him we go to Him, repent and walk away totally FREE.

To conclude, those who are born of His spirit, who believe He is able to keep that what has been committed to Him, do indeed keep the commandment of "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:7.